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QUEBEC MOUNTED POLICE AGAIN TO
PROTECT MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Thousands of migratory game birds that visit a group of small islands in the St. Lawrence River just east of the Island of Orleans are again this spring, as in April last year, to receive special protection by a patrol of two Quebec mounted police, according to a report received through official channels by Paul G. Redington, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, from the American consul at Quebec, Canada.

The object of this patrol, according to the local division of the Provincial Association for the Protection of Fish and Game, is to protect the birds that rest on the islands during their spring trip north from molestation by resident hunters. The only known flock of greater snow geese comes regularly up the St. Lawrence each spring after wintering in Virginia and North Carolina. These birds rest several days on these islands before continuing north for the summer. Other game birds appearing there at this season are Canada geese, brant, black ducks, pintails, mallards, and teals. These same birds return in the autumn with their young en route southward.

It was reported that a similar police patrol for 23 days of April last year stopped much of the illegal hunting of these birds. "Occasionally,"

it was stated, "hunters dressed in white clothes were making use of motor launches painted white so that their approach would not be readily discerned by flocks on the river surface, the stream being usually partly filled with ice and snow at this time of year."

In commenting on this effective cooperation to conserve the wild birds of the continent, Mr. Redington, who heads the branch of the United States Government charged with carrying out in this country the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty, said that patrols similar in purpose are being maintained by the Biological Survey by means of game protectors stationed in various parts of the country. "It is only by such cooperative measures on the part of the two countries," he said, "that we can hope to fulfill our obligations under the treaty and save our wild fowl for future generations. Both Canada and the United States are also creating and maintaining nationwide systems of refuges that furnish sanctuary for many species of our migratory birds."

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